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B625h

Historical Program Commemo-
rating the One Hundredth
Anniversary of Tremont, IL. (1935)

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

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One
Hundredth
Anniversary
of
Tremont



ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

1835

Historical Program

Commemorating the
One Hundredth
Anniversary
of

Tremont, Illinois

Second County Seat of Tazewell County

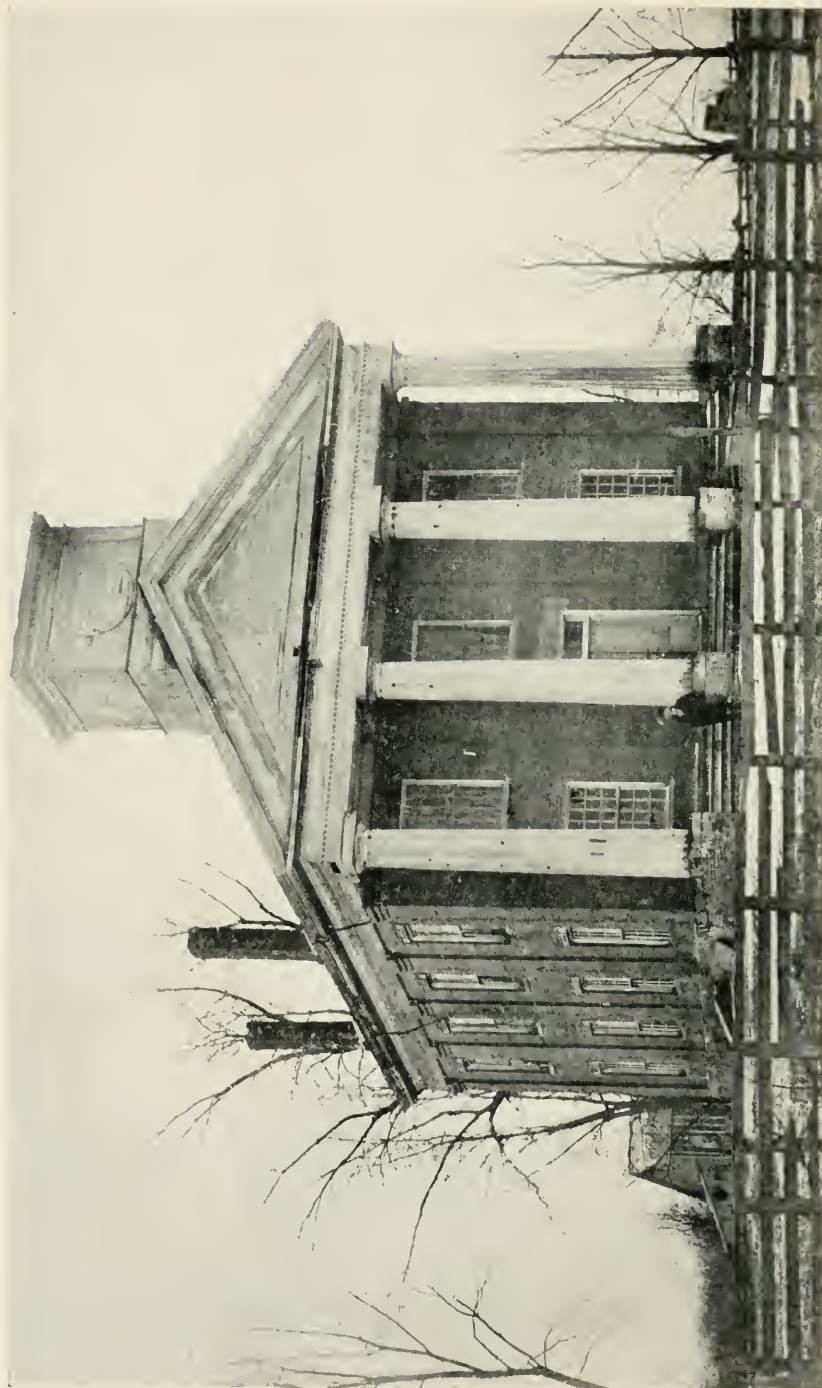
1835

Celebrated

Thursday, August 1, 1935

Edited and Compiled by Harold M. Blue

1935



The Tazewell County Court House erected in Tremont in 1836, as it appeared in later years. The cupola, on top of which a rod supporting 3 gilt balls was placed, had been wrecked when this photograph was taken. There is now a modern residence on this site.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PROGRESS

Ill. Hist. Soc.

Events of the Day

MORNING

- 10:00 A. M. **Address of Welcome**, Dr. J. E. McIntyre, President of the Village Board.
Following Dr. McIntyre's address will be an open period for the renewing of old friendships. In addition there will be races, games and horseshoe pitching for those so inclined.
- 11:00 A. M. **Grand Centennial Parade**, featuring Bands, Drum Corps, Visiting Lodges, Commercial, Religious, and Educational Floats.
- 12:00 Noon **Luncheon, Entertainment and Music** at the Park by the Pekin Municipal Band.

AFTERNOON

- 1:00 P. M. **Balloon Ascension**, with a thrilling triple parachute drop.
Concert by the Pekin Municipal Band.
- 2:00 P. M. **Hoosier "Sod Busters,"** WLS nationally known radio artists.
- 3:00 P. M. **Address** by Dr. John Holland, of WLS fame.
- 4:00 P. M. **Five Flying LaVans**, World's Greatest Aerialists, directly from the Steel Pier in Atlantic City.
- 4:30 P. M. **Baseball Game**, Tremont vs. Delavan.
- 5:30 P. M. **Games, races, etc.,** for the children.

EVENING

- 6:00 P. M. **Picnic Dinner** in Park.
Band Concert by Pekin Municipal Band.
- 7:00 P. M. **Balloon Ascension**, with another triple parachute drop.
- 8:00 P. M. **WLS Artists.**
- 8:30 P. M. **Five Flying LaVans**, in another death defying exhibition.
- 9:30 P. M. **Historical Pageant**, depicting the History of Tremont.
- 9:45 P. M. **Free Pavement Dance**, with music by Al Winkel's 9 piece orchestra.

History of the Village of Tremont

THE STORY of the pioneer settlement of the West is filled with thrilling romance, and in that great empire we now know as the Mississippi Valley, there can be found no more romantic stories than those that cluster about Illinois. Here the early French explorers — Marquette, Joliet, LaSalle, Tonti, and the Jesuit missionaries—on their long journeys between Canada and the Great River, passed back and forth in their frail canoes along the Kankakee, the Illinois, the Mackinaw, and other neighboring rivers within a few miles of what is now Tremont. The stories of their early travels, of the simple Indian life of the whole region, of the wild game abounding everywhere, of the trails that led across verdant rolling prairies, and through beautiful forest—deep trodden by both Indian and Buffalo—of the fur traders who were the first white settlers in the country—these are more thrilling by far than the stories of the later and more modern times. But all these are but the background of the story that interests us today—the settlements from 1820 on, in which our forefathers took such a heroic part.

It is cause for profound regret that we have so little direct and definite knowledge of the ancestral homes of the group of families who made up the nucleus of the Tremont colony, nor of the reasons—religious, political, or economic—which impelled them to leave their ancestral homes and emigrate to this virgin country, gathering as a colony of farmers with Tremont as a centre. But we shall have to content ourselves with such fragments of the almost forgotten story as we can gather from many scattered sources.

The first white settler in the vicinity of Tremont was a man named James Chapman, who came here in the early part of 1820. He built a cabin near Pleasant Grove, but shortly after moved to Tremont township, two and one-half miles east of the village.

In 1823, Thomas Briggs and Hezekiah Davis came from Sangamon County, and established themselves as Indian traders two and one-half miles northwest at Pleasant Grove. With them they brought a barrel of whiskey, some calico, a few blankets, and other trinkets, for which the Indians were always eager to barter furs and skins.

In the spring of 1824, Wm. Davis, Nathan Dillon and Martin Miars located a few miles southwest of Tremont at the present site of Dillon.

It is recorded that Peter Cartwright, the pioneer evangelist, was joined in Holy Bonds of Matrimony, in 1827, on the site of what afterward was known as Tremont.

In 1830, James Sterling came to Tremont with Wm. Broyhill and family from Sangamon County, and settled on the farm occupied for many years by James Cottingham, two miles east of the Village. Mr. Sterling was the first permanent white settler in Tremont township.

The winter of 1830 and 1831 was memorable for the deep snow. On the evening of the 29th of December, it began falling, and continued unceasingly for three days and nights. Averaging a depth of four feet, it drifted in places as deeply as eighteen to twenty feet. In consequence, great suffering was experienced. For



James J. Kellogg, pioneer settler and teacher, and one of the first mayors of Tremont.

weeks the sun was not visible, and game could not be had. The suffering of the people was very great—human tongue can never adequately picture the trials endured by the people at this time. For many weeks they were completely blockaded, and remained so until, at the point of starvation, they were compelled to venture forth. Going into the fields, until the top of a corn stalk could be seen sticking through the snow, they would dig down for the ear of corn. It is recorded that a day was spent gathering ten bushels of corn, with a four horse team pulling the wagon. To get wood, trees would be cut above the snow; in the spring, stumps were often found ten and eleven feet high. During this winter, it snowed nineteen times from December 29th until February 13th. After the snow melted, deer bones were so numerous in one place, that for a quarter of an acre one could step from bone to bone, over the entire surface. People born during this period of the heavy snow, or who were living at that time, were known as "Snowbirds" for many years.

In 1831, David Lackland, James Broyhill, John Owens and Michael Trout came from Tennessee and located east of Tremont, in the vicinity of what is now known as Tennessee Point. Margaret Lackland, daughter of David Lackland, was the first white child born in Tremont township (May 6, 1833).

In 1833, John H. Harris and Josiah L. James came to central Illinois on a prospecting tour. On their journey home, Mr. James suggested that they organize a colony and emigrate to the west. The proposition was immediately sec-

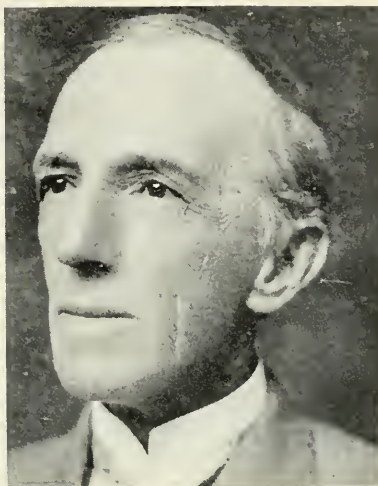
ounded by Mr. Harris, who immediately on his arrival home, began to solicit his friends to join them in the organization of the proposed colony. Their enthusiasm was contagious, for it was not long before a meeting was held at the Walton House in New York City, and a committee consisting of John H. Harris, W. M. Sampson and Josiah L. James, was chosen to decide upon a location for the colony. This committee chose the present site of the Village of Tremont, and upon their return, made known their decision to those interested, whereupon the organization was effected, and the first arrangement made. Mr. Harris was chosen Treasurer.

In 1834, approximately fifty persons started for the settlement, making their journey in wagons, and bringing with them but little furniture, and the barest necessities of life. On their arrival, they laid out the town, building a schoolhouse and church, establishing a post office, and introducing many improvements, which made Tremont at that early date a center of intelligence, enterprise and good society, scarcely equalled by many larger places in the West. They chose, as the name of their enterprise, "Tremont," a name suggested by the three mounds which border the Village, one on the northeast, one a little to the southeast, and one to the southwest.

On February 2nd, 1835, Mr. Harris, as Treasurer of the colony, paid \$18,000 into the government land office at Springfield, Illinois, for ninety-three quarter sections, or 14,800 acres of land. The town was laid out by Harris, James and Sampson. The original land patents were made out in the names of these men, and were signed by President Martin Van Buren. They located the public square, and laid out large lots, with streets and alleys. The colonists chose their land, either city sites or agricultural land, by drawing lots, paying proportionately to the value of the piece of land they drew. The public square was paid for out of the General Fund, and was given to the town for park purposes only. This was a piece of land 680 feet square, located in the center of the original town.

On the 25th day of July of the same year (1835), a vote was taken to decide whether the town should be incorporated. Twenty-nine ballots were cast, twenty-eight for, and one opposing. It is not known who opposed this measure, nor his reason therefor. On August 22, 1835, a meeting was held at the schoolhouse to choose the first trustees of the town. Phillip Flagler, Colis Tompkins, Palmer Holmes, J. C. Morgan and Richard Updike were chosen. In the new town, the first timber was delivered by Nathan Kinsey for the house now known as the Hobart home, formerly occupied by A. A. Chapman. Josiah Matthews completed the first house—that standing on lot 10 in the southeast corner of block 9, on the site where Raymond Lutz now resides. In 1835, a tavern, a large two story frame building, was built on the lot where G. W. Ballanger's home is now located.

On July 12, 1835, the State Legislature appointed a committee to locate permanently the County Seat of Tazewell County. This Committee was composed of John C. Calhoun of Sangamon County, James Gaylord of Putnam County, and Israel Pugh of Macon County. These men came to Tremont in 1835, where they were met by John H. Harris, who offered to donate to the County twenty acres of land just south of the town, now known as the County Seat Addition. This proposition was made to secure the County Seat at Tremont, and in addition to this, the town donated \$2,000 for the erection of the public buildings. The Commissioners accepted these propositions, and in the course of time the County Seat was moved to Tremont from Mackinaw, where it had been located since March, 1827.



N. J. Menard, son of Pierre Menard, pioneer and friend of Abraham Lincoln, for many years one of Tremont's leading citizens.

The year 1835 was memorable for high water. Late in April it commenced to rain, and continued throughout the summer. The great prairies, then uncultivated and undrained, were one vast lake. The storms gathered with fearful rapidity. The falling of rain was frightful, the vivid lightning and crashing thunder was terrible. Very little in the way of raising crops was attempted that summer. In the early part of July, a storm of rain, thunder and lightning occurred which for severity has never been equalled in the mid-west, it is believed. The consequences of this rain were dreadful. The earth was filled with water, and every little hollow was a stagnant pool to engender disease. After the passing of the storm, a silent pestilence—Asiatic Cholera—arose from the green prairie, and spread death and terror in all Central Illinois.

The first Postmaster was a Mr. Sampson, brother of William Sampson, of the original Commission. Mr. Sampson, unfortunately, proved a defaulter, and the Government obtained a judgment against his property. His home stood where F. A. Blue now has his residence. The original building was called the sub treasury for many years, although the government never had such an institution in Tremont, save on paper.

On December 11, 1835, a one story frame building, 18 x 24 feet, was ordered erected for a County Clerk's office, and Thomas Fisher was let the contract for \$285. On June 6, 1836, the first court assembled in this building. During the same year, a contract for a temporary Court House, a two story frame building, was let to Wm. Dillon for \$1,150.00. The old jail was removed from Mackinaw to Tremont, where it was enlarged, and veneered with brick, a very unusual procedure in those pioneer days.

It is interesting, always, to know the reaction of people on the spot. Therefore, we read avidly the following excerpts, taken verbatim from the published account of a notable traveler of that day. Undoubtedly the author visited in this community either in 1835 or 1836. He says: "The character of the place is New England. Sectional feelings are all merged in the general interest . . . exceedingly neat and pleasant . . . For a high moral tone of feeling, temperance, good order, industry, public spirit, and real intelligence, I believe Tremont not to be surpassed in the whole West, and rarely equalled in our country towns in the East. . . . One of the most pleasing features of this place is the respect paid by its inhabitants to Sabbath institutions. . . . I have seen no place of its size in the West where there is so little intemperance as in Tremont . . . frank naivette . . . straightforwardness . . . honesty . . . "

1836 is remembered for the sudden change in temperature, which caused the most intense suffering to man and beast. A light snow, followed by a drizzling rain, covered the ground with slush. A northwest wind instantly changed the atmosphere to frigid cold. The next day the entire country was one vast sea of ice. Cattle in the fields were held by the freezing of the slush about their feet, and it became necessary to cut away the ice to liberate them. But these gallant pioneers inured to suffering, accepted this as only a passing incident in the development of a new country.

In December, 1836, a plan was adopted for a permanent Court House, and on the 13th of January, 1837, the contract for the construction was let to Wm. Flagg, for a total of \$14,500. This contract called for the erection of a two story building, with basement, to be erected in the south part of town on a portion of the land donated by John Harris. This building was to be "40 feet wide and 60 feet long, including a portico 10 feet wide. The windows are to be closed with good blinds, the latter to be painted with four coats of paint, two of which are to be French green. It is to be ornamented with an iron rod supporting three guilt balls." In September, 1839, was dedicated the building which later was to sonorously re-echo the resounding voices of Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, General Shields, J. R. Logan, David Davis, and others, whose actions had much to do with the promulgation of a republican form of government, and with the continuation of those principles to which the "Declaration of Independence" was consecrated. Also in this building, on the 17th of September, 1842, Brig. Gen. Shields, the State Auditor, challenged Abraham Lincoln to a duel concerning the authorship of some libelous letters appearing in a Springfield paper. It must be admitted that Lincoln had a great deal to do with them, but it is equally true that Mary Todd had a hand in the affair, so Honest Abe admitted the authorship of all to shield the fair Miss Todd. However, the aftermath of this challenge was rather farcial—the duel, in which Lincoln proposed to use "Cavalry Broadswords, of the widest and heaviest type," never was fought, and the two participants afterward became good friends.

After the town of Tremont had been laid out in 1834, among the first things to be established was a school. This building was erected on the site of the present Methodist parsonage, long occupied by the Kellogg family. The original school building is still standing, and serves as a kitchen to the Methodist parsonage. The original teacher is not known, but for thirteen years, from 1838 till 1851, James Kellogg, a farmer who had been a most successful teacher in the East, served as instructor. The school was a private one, and the course covered was elaborate, and



The beautiful Menard home in Tremont. This edifice has often housed Abraham Lincoln, who was a close friend of Pierre Menard, one of the earliest settlers.

would no doubt dismay the teacher of today. It included everything from the primary to the Academy, including Latin and Greek.

In 1836, the State Legislature under the Internal Improvement Act, appointed three Commissioners (one of whom was Charles Oakly of Tremont), to plan the building of a railroad from Pekin to Bloomington. In accordance with their plans, the road was graded as far as Tremont. The stone culverts were built, and ties and sills laid for flat rails. Colonel Oakly then went to England to negotiate for rails, but before his return, the state had become practically bankrupt, and the work had to be abandoned. The material was subsequently removed.

The first white child born in the Village of Tremont was Charles Hayward, born to Almarine and Eliza Washburn Hayward in 1837, in the house now occupied by Wm. Vale. The Haywards originally came here from Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

In the summer of 1837, a great drouth prevailed. For seven weeks not a drop of rain fell, and for a previous period of nearly twice that length of time, the few showers that had fallen were barely sufficient to lay the dust. There were no dews. The trodden roads were piled with dust. Sickness which had begun early in the summer in various parts of the county, increased in malignity. Disease and death stalked abroad. The pestilence claimed its victims in every home, in some whole families being prostrated. The fever took the most malignant and fatal form in the bottom lands, those bordering on the streams. One riding through those regions frequently found homes in which every member of the family was ill. There were but three or four wells in the city that furnished any water—the well back of the present city hall being the finest and best of any.

In the early part of 1840 two stage lines were established, one between Peoria and Bloomington, and the other between Peoria and Springfield. These stages,

drawn by four horse teams, carried mail, passengers, and express. Daily trips were made in either direction on both lines. Milton W. Gowdy, of this place, was one of the earliest drivers. During the time that he was employed, some of the country's greatest men were his passengers. Among them was Abraham Lincoln, who, when the weather was nice, would sit in the driver's seat with him the entire way from Peoria to Springfield, and enliven the trip with the stories and anecdotes for which he was famous.

The first church in Tremont was built by the Baptists in 1842, at a cost of \$1700. The Congregational Church of Tremont was organized in 1844, and the building erected in 1848. Before its completion, it was struck by lightning, and damaged to some extent. The Episcopalians built a church in 1847 on the lots where Beyer's Implement Co. now has its warehouse. A Bible given to the church in that year by Bishop Chase is still in existence. In the early '60's, a Unitarian Church, afterwards known as the Liberal Church, was erected on the site of Jacob Velde's Hardware store. The Catholics bought the old schoolhouse, and worshipped there until they built their own church near the Court House, in 1872.

In 1848, a petition was circulated to move the County Seat from Tremont to Pekin. This petition received so many signatures that a vote was finally taken to decide the question. Pekin polled the requisite number of votes, and the records were removed to that city in 1849 and 1850. For several years a high school was conducted in the old Court House. After the community had erected a high school several years later, the building was remodeled as an apartment house. In 1895, the original building was sold to William Brown, and a residence erected where the old Court House stood.

About the year 1848, a private school was in operation for a short time on the lot where the Jacob Nafziger residence now stands.

A company was organized in March, 1850, to establish a female seminary. In 1851, a two story frame structure was erected where Dan Staker's residence now is, and was made into one of the finest institutions of this nature in Illinois. It was attended by young ladies from all over the country.

Shortly previous to this, a district school called the Bell School (because it possessed a bell!) was built just west of the present location of the Baptist Church. In 1864, the Female Seminary was moved beside the Bell School, and converted into a public school. This continued to be the public school of Tremont until 1892, when the present school building was built.

Prior to the year 1850, a district school building was built in Elm Grove township where Ted Mullane now lives. Miss Susannah Sawyer of Peterborough, New Hampshire, was the first teacher here. Among others, Miss Ruth Fenner taught here, and in the new building of the same school, erected in 1897.

About 1860, a committee was appointed to transfer the old railroad bed to a newly organized company which proposed to build a road from Pekin, Illinois, to Danville, Illinois, by the way of Tremont. This company, like its predecessor, failed to carry out its plans, largely due to the Civil War, then in progress.

In 1866, a newly organized company assumed the character of the defunct railroad, and the road was finally built. The first passenger train, consisting of an engine and two coaches, was run from Pekin to Tremont July 4, 1867. A. J. Davis was the first railroad agent, and A. D. Davis the first telegraph operator.

During the decade 1850-1860, a number of German farmers of the Mennonite and Amish sects, commenced an emigration to Tremont and vicinity. These people proved to be an excellent addition to our community, displaying both thrift and honesty in all their dealings. Today they own the major portion of the farms around Tremont, in addition to many homes in the Village. Many of their young people are occupying positions of trust in the town, and several are instructors in our public school.

About the year 1880, an agricultural society was formed by the people living in and around Tremont, and a fair was held every year for about ten years, in a ten acre tract of land northwest of town. This land was the property of Josiah Sawyer, President of the organization, who donated its use to the community.

The first Militia Company of Tremont was organized by Captain Trough. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Captain Peter Menard organized a company of about eighty men, with John March as First Lieutenant. There are now twenty veterans of this war buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, who do not, of course, represent all those who went in defense of their country from this community. One of the number, Dudley Holmes, was killed in action at the battle of Fort Donelson. In this connection, it is interesting to recall that in this same cemetery, there are the graves of two who were in the War of 1812: Felix Fenner and Almarine Hayward; two from the Black Hawk War of 1831: Peter Menard and Hezekiah Davis; Richard Updike, from the Mexican War; and five veterans from the late World War. Surely Tremont has done its share in the defense of its country.

In 1895, a Woman's Club was organized in Tremont by the young married women of the town. It soon opened its doors to other women, and it has proved a useful and helpful organization. At the present time there are about forty members. In 1917, under the auspices of this organization, a free circulating library was started in Tremont.

The first telephone in the Village of Tremont was one installed in the late 1880's by S. A. Hayward, from his grain office on Sampson Street to his residence opposite the northeast corner of the square.

In the spring of 1916, a petition was presented to consolidate the west side school, district 73, with the Tremont School, District 39. This petition was favorably received, and the two schools were consolidated as District 39. To the high school erected in 1892, two rooms were added later. This building was used as a Community High School after 1920. In 1926, a very fine addition was made to the old building, providing room for an expanding High School, and offering modern facilities for educational purposes.

Until her death, Miss Ruth Fenner, mentioned above, conducted a private school in her home in the south part of town. Miss Fenner's years of service as a teacher number sixty, and during these many earnest and devoted years, she enshrined herself in the hearts of many of our citizens who were proud to have received instruction at her hands.

Her life of service was duplicated in later years by Miss Florence M. Skinner, who, holding increasingly responsible positions of trust in our public school system, inculcated into our hearts an earnest desire for the better things of life. Upon her passing, the entire community mourned.

To these two devoted women, we wish to express a deep and undying debt of gratitude. Of women such as these is our nation advanced.

During the last 25 or 30 years, the village has taken on new life, and has



Miss Ruth Fenner in the 60's.

steadily grown in population and business importance, and today compares favorably with any of the villages in this or surrounding counties. No thoughtful person can look back over the history of this community without concluding that few places in Illinois were begun under more auspicious circumstances, nor have few made better use of those opportunities. The coming of the colonists gave the community an impetus that for many years set it in advance of the surrounding villages and towns. The colonists did more than advance the material interests of the place; they brought with them the culture and spirit of New England, and the town, for many years, has had a reputation far and near for high ideals, in economic, social, and religious matters. Indeed, these same lofty ideals have been handed down from generation to generation, until today, even though few descendants of the colonists remain, yet the new citizens have caught the spirit of the past, and are endeavoring to maintain the same standards that have characterized the community since its history began.

The sons and daughters of old Tremont are scattered far and near, many of them filling important places of influence in other states and distant countries, but wherever we find them, we find deep implanted in their hearts an earnest, reverent love for their childhood home. And to them, the name "Tremont" recalls pleasant memories, and stirs within them an ambition to press forward in the lines of success that their ancestors by hard labor and self denial made possible for them.

Finis

**Taken Verbatim from the Proceedings of Board of Trustees
of the Town of Tremont**

November 20, 1843.

Board met according to adj. Present Messrs. Holmes, James & Browne.

On motion of Mr. James it was ordered that notice be given that any persons having paid a tax assessed for the year 1841, upon producing receipts for the payment of the same, shall be credited with the amount then paid, upon the tax due for the year 1843

November 7, 1846. Saturday Evening.

Board met this evening in pursurance of adjt.—all being present

On motion of Mr. Browne the Board passed the following

ORDINANCE

“Be it ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Tremont that the Corporation Taxes of the Year 1843 be refunded to all the persons who shall present receipts for said Taxes or prove payment of the same in some other way—that the Board meet on the evening of Friday & Saturday, Nov. 20th & 21st to hear said proof and that thereafter all said persons be forever barred from the benefit of this Ordinance.”



—Photo Courtesy Peoria Star

Home of Miss Ida McClure, on the east side of town,
in which Abraham Lincoln often visited.

Two Very Unusual Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Tremont

(Closing entry of the meeting held Dec. 29, 1843)

Adj. to the last Saturday in Jany. 1844.

H. R. BROWNE, Clerk.

(Next Entry)

The Board met agreeably to adjournment, and adjourned without doing business: Meetings were suspended until August 5, 1846, when the Board met agreeably to previous notice:—present, Messrs. P. Holmes, F. L. Dean, B. F. James & H. R. Browne.

On motion of Mr. James ordered that there be an election of Five Trustees at the Court House in Tremont on Monday next at 4 o'clock P. M.

Adj.

H. R. BROWNE, Clk.

September, 1850.

The Board of Trustees met at the home of H. R. Browne, agreeably to adjt.

On motion, H. R. Browne was appointed Clerk of the Board.

The members of the Board, having conferred with the Citizens of the Town of Tremont in relation to the propriety and expediency of suspending the active duties of said Board, and allowing the Corporate powers thereof to rest in abeyance until some time in the future, when it should appear advisable and expedient to resume their functions; at the same time, exercising supervision and control over some special matters, such as Licensing Shows and the proper and necessary repairs of the Burial Ground; After due and deliberate consideration, it was on motion, Ordered

That the powers and duties of the Corporation and Board of Trustees (with the above exceptions) be suspended—Subject to the future action of the Board of Trustees in connection with the Citizens of said Town of Tremont.

On motion adjourned.

H. R. BROWNE, Clerk.

(Next Entry)

Revival of the Corporation of Tremont, Aug. 4, 1863. The old Board of Trustees met agreeably to previous notice, for the purpose of taking measures to revive the corporation of Tremont . . . (The meeting received a Petition signed by twenty-four legal voters requesting that an election be held to elect Trustees, which was done, and the Corporation revived.)

Would it not be interesting to know, in all their ramifications, the stories lying back of these two laconic entries? Solely as a matter of record, it is noted that the second suspension occurred very shortly after Tremont had lost its place as County Seat to Pekin.

Presidents of the Town and Village Board

Although a public election for the purpose of incorporating the town was held in 1835, and incorporation of the Town of Tremont decided upon, for some unknown reason, the actual incorporation was not made effective until June 8, 1841, when the trustees took office. On that date James L. Willson was elected President of the Board, and assumed his chair, which he retained until September 11, of the same year. In their order the following men were President of the Town Board (Dates shown are those of assumption of office):

James L. Willson—June 8, 1841	Palmer Jones—August 28, 1843
Littleton T. Garth—September 11, 1841	

From January 25, 1844, until August 5, 1846, all operations of the Town Board were suspended—for what reason I cannot gather.

H. R. Browne—August 10, 1846	L. D. Hamilton—August 17, 1848
James K. Kellogg—October 10, 1846	Mushi Thomas—August 19, 1850

From September, 1850, until August 4, 1863, all operations of the Town Board were suspended—because the citizens thought it “expedient.”

Dr. S. R. Saltonstall, August 31, 1863.	Dr. S. R. Saltonstall—August 23, 1872
J. K. Kellogg—August 25, 1871	S. C. Hobart—August 18, 1875

By popular vote, initiated by a petition from thirty-one voters, the Town of Tremont was reorganized into the Village of Tremont on August 12, 1878. In their order, the following men were Presidents of the Village Board. (Dates shown are those of assumption of office):

A. J. Davis.....September 2, 1878	J. W. Barkdoll1897
William Hayward1880	Edward Pratt1898
Alexander Wynd1884	W. H. Harris1899
Edward Pratt1885	J. W. Barkdoll1902
S. W. Carey1886	William Noonan1907
Edward Pratt1887	C. S. Stegner1911
A. J. Davis1889	J. P. Becker1913
Edward Pratt1890	F. A. Blue1915
A. J. Davis1891	M. L. Cottingham1917
Edward Pratt1892	A. C. Schneider1919
L. S. Rollings1894	Charles Gerstner1921
Dr. J. E. McIntyre1895	M. L. Cottingham1923
J. W. Baylor1895	Dr. J. E. McIntyre1925

Synopsis of the Pageant

The Historical Pageant, depicting the History of Tremont, is presented under the auspices and the direction of the Tremont Woman's Club, the organization which suggested the commemoration of the town's hundredth anniversary, following their Historical Program last spring. The pageant is under the active direction of the following Directors, who have labored faithfully to produce a pageant which would be worthy of the traditions of the pioneers.

Mrs. Eva Cullinan,

Mrs. Genevieve Shepherdson,

Mr. Harold Blue.

Scene

Brief Description with Director

1. Father Time takes us back to 1823.
2. The Spirit of the Wild—a symbolic dance by Frances Ulrich.
3. The passing of the Indians and Traders—Directed by Rev. Paul Meredith.
4. The Coming of the Whites—Mrs. Richard Cullinan.
5. The Original Settlement—Miss Julia Hayward.
6. The First School—Mrs. Wm. Connell.
7. Peter Cartwright, Circuit Rider—as represented by Leonard Becker.
8. Political Rally, 1840—Mrs. Chas. Hoffman and Mrs. Don Gillan.
9. Dance, following the rally—in charge of Oscar Hazelman.
10. Court House Scene and Coming of Lincoln—Miss Marietta Morse.
11. Female Seminary—Mrs. Wm. Connell, Mrs. Marshal Jenks, Mrs. Delmar Studyvin.
12. Civil War Veterans—Harold Blue.
13. School of Ruth Fenner—Mrs. Wm. Connell, Mrs. Marshal Jenks, Mrs. Delmar Studyvin.
14. World War Group—Harold Blue.
15. Planting of Centennial Tree—led by Mrs. Ida Rodecker, oldest living resident of Tremont, and Gail Barton, fourth generation in lineal descent of one of the early settlers (William Sterling)—directed by Mrs. L. E. Bennett.
16. Fanfare.
17. Progress.

"Time goes! Ah no—

Time stays—we go!"

Workers for The Centennial

The following men, in active charge of the events of the day, are to be heartily commended for their earnest and sincere efforts in the face of what seemed at first insurmountable obstacles. In remembering this day, we ask that you also remember the hard work which these various men have done in order that this Centennial and Homecoming might be a success.

Committees

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Executive—R. A. Cullinan, Chairman, | Grounds & Concessions—John Waldon. |
| Frank Sharp, John Waldon, Dr. J. | Decorations—Ernest Graber. |
| P. Blumenschein, L. E. Bennett, Ed- | Lights—Hoer, Mosiman, Ralph Cot- |
| win Koch, Secretary. | tingham. |
| Finance—L. E. Bennett. | Contests— |
| Publicity—Michael Beyer. | Horseshoe—John Coddington. |
| Advertising—Earl Cottingham. | Races—Bill Getz. |
| Program—Executive Committee. | Ball Game—Don Kinsey. |
| Homecoming—George Hillman. | Corn Game—Ben Carius. |
| Parade—A. P. Schaefer. | Stands—Frank Sharp, Earl Riley, Wm. |
| Floats—Dr. Blumenschein, Ben Carius | McQueen, F. A. Blue. |

Guarantors of the Centennial

To the following public spirited men and firms of this community, who by their financial support have made this Centennial a success, we desire to express the thanks of a grateful community:

Clark Barton	Phil H. Hoffman
Harold Becker	Home Oil Co.
J. P. Becker	Illinois Oil Co.
L. E. Bennett	Illinois Valley Telephone Co.
Aaron Bertsch	Ed Kahler
Wm. Beutel	Ed Koch
Beyer Implement Co.	Larkin Co.
F. A. Blue	Thomas Litwiler
Dr. J. P. Blumenschein	Dr. J. E. McIntyre
Ben H. Carius	C. D. McMurray
Wm. Connell	W. C. McQueen
J. L. Cooney	Moser & Bolliger
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Geo. L. Gerstner & Son	Bert Russell
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Glenn Gibson	F. O. Sharp
H. V. Giltner	Tazewell Service Co.
Ben Grubb	Tremont Co-Op. Grain Co.
Frank Harris	Tremont Home Bakery
Frank Helleman	Jacob and L. H. Velde
Ed Hermann	John Waldon
G. F. Hillman	J. P. Woerner



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